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CLAIMS

1. A television signal receiver (20) having an emergency alert function, comprising:

first tuning means (23) for tuning a first channel when said television signal receiver (20) is in an on mode; and

second tuning means (25, 42) for tuning a second channel when said television signal receiver (20) is in said on mode and an off/standby mode, said second channel providing emergency alert signals capable of activating said emergency alert function.

- 2. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 1, wherein said second tuning means (42) is included in a modern apparatus (40).
- 3. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 2, wherein said modem apparatus (40) is internal to said television signal receiver (20).
- 4. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 2, wherein said modem apparatus (40) is external to said television signal receiver (20).
 - 5. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 4, wherein said modem apparatus (40) includes alert means (47) for providing an alert output when said emergency alert function is activated.
 - 6. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 5, wherein said alert means (47) includes a visual output element (47a).
- 7. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 5, wherein said alert means (47) includes an aural output element (47b).
 - 8. A method (300) for controlling a television signal receiver (20) having an emergency alert function, comprising:

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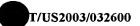
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enabling a first tuner (23) to tune a first channel when said television signal receiver (20) is in an on mode; and

enabling a second tuner (25, 42) to tune a second channel when said television signal receiver (20) is in said on mode and an off/standby mode, said second channel providing emergency alert signals capable of activating said emergency alert function.

- 9. The method (300) of claim 8, wherein said second tuner (42) is included in a modem apparatus (40).
- 10. The method (300) of claim 9, wherein said modem apparatus (40) is internal to said television signal receiver (20).
- 11. The method (300) of claim 9, wherein said modem apparatus (40) is external to said television signal receiver (20).
 - 12. The method (300) of claim 11, further comprised of providing an alert output via an alert system (47) of said modern apparatus (40) when said emergency alert function is activated.
 - 13. The method (300) of claim 12, wherein said alert output includes a visual output.
- 14. The method (300) of claim 12, wherein said alert output includes an aural output.
 - 15. A modem apparatus (40) having an emergency alert function, comprising:
 - a modulator (44) operative to modulate upstream signals provided to a network;
 - a demodulator (43) operative to demodulate downstream signals provided from said network, said downstream signals including emergency alert signals capable of activating said emergency alert function; and



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an alert system (47) operative to provide an alert output when said emergency alert function is activated.

- 16. The modem apparatus (40) of claim 15, wherein said alert system (47) includes a visual output element (47a).
 - 17. The modem apparatus (40) of claim 15, wherein said alert system (47) includes an aural output element (47b).
- 18. The modem apparatus (40) of claim 15, wherein said network includes a cable network.
 - 19. The modem apparatus (40) of claim 15, wherein said network includes a DSL network.
 - 20. The modem apparatus (40) of claim 15, wherein: said modem apparatus (40) is operatively coupled to an external device (20); and
- said external device (20) provides a second alert output when said emergency alert function is activated.
 - 21. The modem apparatus of claim 20, wherein said external device includes a television signal receiver (20).
- 25 22. The modem apparatus of claim 20, wherein said external device includes a computer.